

Stuck In The Middle by Stealers Wheel



Stuck In The Middle With You by Stealer's Wheel



Back in the 70s this was a middle of the road pop-rock tune. However to me it's a great illustration of the difference between contemporary bass playing and bass playing from this era (which I think of as a golden era).

Although the bass line isn't difficult, it's interesting, inventive, has variations throughout the tune and employs devices introduced to the vocabulary of all bass players

by the masters like James Jamerson and so on.

The song kicks off with an intro - there are three bars of acoustic guitar before the bass comes in on bar 4 and the band kick in on bar 5:

5 2 3 0 2 0

5 5 0 2 0 2 0 | 5 5 0 2 0 2 0 | 5 5 0 2 0 2 5 | 5 3 0 2 0 2 0

This pattern continues in the verse:

♩=124

The first system consists of four measures. The fretboard diagram shows fingerings: Measure 1 (T: 5, B: 5), Measure 2 (T: 5, B: 0 2), Measure 3 (T: 0 2 5, B: 0 2 5), Measure 4 (T: 5 3, B: 0 2 0 2 0).
The second system consists of four measures. The fretboard diagram shows fingerings: Measure 1 (T: 5, B: 0 2 3 2 0), Measure 2 (T: 5, B: 5 0 5 0 2 3), Measure 3 (T: 5, B: 5 0 2 0 2 5), Measure 4 (T: 5 3, B: 0 2 0 2 2).
The third system consists of four measures. The fretboard diagram shows fingerings: Measure 1 (T: 0 0 3 4 2, B: 4 2), Measure 2 (T: 3, B: 2 3 4 5 0 2 3), Measure 3 (T: 5, B: 5 0 2 0 2 5), Measure 4 (T: 5 3, B: 0 2 0 2 0).

The first verse leads directly to Verse 2....for this tutorial we're going to use the verse figure that we learned in Verse 1.

Verse 2 leads us to a bridge and that looks like this - one thing to note, approach the G of the Bridge with the F# note a semi tone below it (so 4th fret, G string):

♩=124

The first system of music features a bass staff in G major (one sharp) with a 4/4 time signature. The tempo is marked as ♩=124. The staff contains a continuous eighth-note pattern in the first two measures, followed by a half-note rest and then a series of eighth and quarter notes. Below the staff is a fretboard diagram with two lines, T (Treble) and B (Bass). The B line contains the following fret numbers: 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 4 | 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 4 | 5 5 0 2 0 2 5 | 5 3 0 2 0 2 4.

The second system continues the bass line. It starts with a continuous eighth-note pattern, followed by a half-note rest and then a series of eighth and quarter notes. Below the staff is a fretboard diagram with two lines, T (Treble) and B (Bass). The B line contains the following fret numbers: 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 4 | 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 4 | 5 5 5 | 5 5 | 0 5 5.

The third system continues the bass line. It starts with a half-note rest and then a series of eighth and quarter notes. Below the staff is a fretboard diagram with two lines, T (Treble) and B (Bass). The B line contains the following fret numbers: 5 5 | 5 5 0 2 0 2 5 | 5 3 0 2 0 2 0.

The fourth system continues the bass line. It starts with a half-note rest and then a series of eighth and quarter notes. Below the staff is a fretboard diagram with two lines, T (Treble) and B (Bass). The B line contains the following fret numbers: 5 5 0 2 0 2 5 | 5 3 0 2 0 2 0.

After the bridge there is a third verse - again we'll use the verse we looked at already. The Guitar Solo - which is up next - is also based on the verse format...but here's what we're going to play:

♩=124

The first system of the bass line is written in bass clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes. The fretboard diagram below shows the fingerings for the first four measures: Measure 1 (5, 5, 0, 2, 0, 2, 5), Measure 2 (5, 3, 2, 0, 2, 0), Measure 3 (5, 5, 0, 2, 0, 2, 5), and Measure 4 (5, 3, 0, 2, 0, 2, 5).

The second system continues the bass line. The melody includes a measure with a natural sign and a measure with a natural sign and an 'x' (likely a natural harmonic). The fretboard diagram for the four measures is: Measure 1 (5, 5, 0, 2, 3, 5, x), Measure 2 (5, 5, 0, 5, 0, 2, 3), Measure 3 (5, 5, 0, 2, 0, 2, 5), and Measure 4 (5, 3, 0, 2, 0, 2, 2).

The third system concludes the bass line. The melody features a measure with a natural sign and a measure with a natural sign and a sharp sign. The fretboard diagram for the four measures is: Measure 1 (0, 0, 3, 4, 2, 4, 2), Measure 2 (3, 2, 5, 5, 4, 5, 0, 2), Measure 3 (5, 5, 0, 2, 0, 2, 5), and Measure 4 (5, 3, 0, 2, 0, 2, 5).

After the guitar solo there's a second bridge with some interesting changes to the rhythm:

♩=124

The first system of bass notation for 'Stuck In The Middle With You'. It features a bass staff in D major (two sharps) with a 4/4 time signature. The tempo is marked as ♩=124. The staff contains four measures of music. Below the staff is a fretboard diagram with two lines, T (top) and B (bottom), showing fingerings for each measure. Measure 1: T (5, 5, 5, 5, 4), B (5, 5, 5, 5, 4). Measure 2: T (5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 4), B (5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 4). Measure 3: T (5, 5, 2, 0, 2, 5), B (5, 3, 0, 2, 0, 2, 4). Measure 4: T (5, 3, 0, 2, 0, 2, 4), B (5, 3, 0, 2, 0, 2, 4).

The second system of bass notation. It continues the bass line with four measures. Measure 1: T (5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 4), B (5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 4). Measure 2: T (5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 4), B (5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 4). Measure 3: T (5, 5, 5), B (5, 5, 5). Measure 4: T (5, 5), B (5, 5).

The third system of bass notation. It continues the bass line with four measures. Measure 1: T (0, 5, 5), B (0, 5, 5). Measure 2: T (5, 5), B (5, 5). Measure 3: T (5, 5, 2, 0, 2, 0), B (5, 5, 2, 0, 2, 0). Measure 4: T (5, 5, 0, 2, 0, 2, 0), B (5, 5, 0, 2, 0, 2, 0).

The fourth system of bass notation. It continues the bass line with two measures. Measure 1: T (5, 5, 0, 2, 0, 2, 0), B (5, 5, 0, 2, 0, 2, 0). Measure 2: T (5, 5, 3, 4, 0, 3, 4), B (5, 5, 3, 4, 0, 3, 4).

There's a further verse - again we'll use what we already looked at - and then the tune vamps for the outro:

♩=124

Staff 1: Measure 1 (B5, A5, G5, F#5), Measure 2 (E5, D5, C5, B4), Measure 3 (A4, G4, F#4, E4).
 Staff 2: Measure 4 (D4, C4, B3, A3), Measure 5 (G3, F#3, E3, D3), Measure 6 (C3, B2, A2, G2), Measure 7 (F#2, E2, D2, C2).

How To Program The Sections In Band In A Box

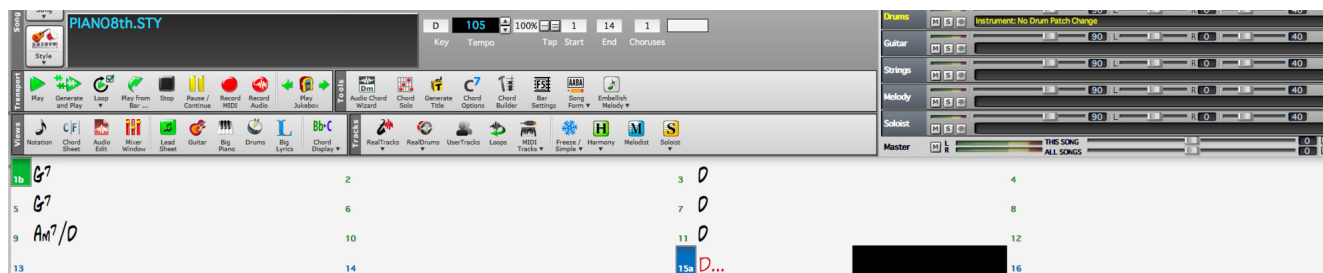
If you want to program and isolate the sections in Band In A Box (and play with the tempos) here's what to do:

1. Set key to D.
2. Aim for performance tempo to be around 125 BPM
3. Choose a band style or chordal metronome
4. Mute the bass

Here's the intro when programmed:

Here's the verse when programmed:

Here's the bridge when programmed:



And here's the outro:

